Interest amounting to Rs. 3,642 crore approx. (Rs. 834.22 crore, Rs. 1,952.84 crore, Rs. 640.80 crore and Rs. 214.12 crore in Maharashtra, A.P., Karnataka and Kerala respectively) have been waived while loans worth Rs. 10,696 crore (Rs. 1,384 crore, 7,260 crore, 1,249 and Rs. 803 crore in Maharashtra, A.P., Karantaka and Kerala respectively) have been rescheduled in these districts.

Besides, in the Union Budget 2008-09, the Government has announced a Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme for farmers, which stipulates waiver of all loans disbursed by Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Credit Institutions before 31.3.2007, that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.2.2008 for small farmers (land holding between 1 and 2 hecatares) and marginal farmers (land holding upto 1 hectare). In respect of other farmers (land holding more than 2 hecatares), there is a One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for all loans that were overdue on 31.12.2007 and which remained unpaid until 29.2.2008. The OTS provides a rebate of 25% against payment of the balance amount of 75%. Government estimates that about three crore small and marginal farmers and about one crore other farmers including the farmers of Vidarbha, whose loans are overdue on 31.12.2007 will benefit from the scheme.

Cases of bogus caste certificates in nationalised banks

4220. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the recent judgement delivered in the case of Yogesh Ramchandra Naikwadi who claimed to be Scheduled Tribe on the basis of bogus caste certificate; and

(b) if so, what action is proposed by the Ministry on the hundreds of bogus caste certificate cases in Nationalised Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Exemption of taxes in Sikkim

4221. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain groups of citizens who call themselves as original Indians in Sikkim, have represented against discrimination in respect of exemption from taxes as compared to the rest of population in Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry has been held or planned to be held;

(c) whether any such inquiry has revealed any discrimination;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Representations have been received from certain groups of